IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Mitsuo OCHI, et al.

Continuation In Part Application of

U.S. Appln. No.: 09/934,581

Group Art Unit: 3736 (Parent)

Confirmation No.: Unknown

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: February 27, 2002

For:

METHOD FOR MEASURING STIFFNESS OF CULTURED TISSUE, FOR

DETERMINING TRANSPLANT COMPATIBILITY FOR QUALITY CONTROL AND

FOR PREPARING TRANSPLANT-COMPATIBLE CULTURED TISSUE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:

This is a Continuation-In-Part of Application No. 09/934,581 filed August 23, 2001; the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT C-I-P of U.S. Appln. No. 09/934,581

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

7. (Amended) A method of determining the transplant compatibility of a tissue cultured in vitro, said method using a method for measuring the stiffness of a cultured tissue according to claim 1.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT C-I-P of U.S. Appln. No. 09/934,581

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Registration No. 21,092

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20037-3213 Telephone: (202) 293-7060 Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

Date: February 27, 2002 Attorney Docket No.: Q68602

APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification is changed as follows:

Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:

This is a Continuation-In-Part of Application No. 09/934,581 filed August 23, 2001; the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

7. (Amended) A method of determining the transplant compatibility of a tissue cultured in vitro, said method using a method for measuring the stiffness of a cultured tissue according to [any of claims 1 to 6] claim 1.